



NEWS RELEASE

California Department of Social Services

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
November 21, 2009

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California Receives \$1.5 million in Adoption Incentive Payment Program funds

Just in Time for National Adoption Month

Sacramento – John Wagner, Director of the California Department of Social Services (CDSS) announced today the receipt of \$1.5 million in Adoption Incentive Payment Program funds from the federal Administration for Children and Families. The funding will go to California counties and State Adoption District Offices to fund successful efforts aimed at improving permanency options for older foster children and youth including but not limited to adoption, guardianship and family reunification.

“I am delighted that California has received this funding,” said Wagner. “It is no secret that as foster youth age, he or she is less likely to find a permanent home and sadly those youth are much more likely to find themselves homeless or incarcerated.”

The purpose of the funding is to pay for activities that increase permanent homes for this group of foster youth. The dollars may be used for services such as post-adoption services to prevent adoption disruptions; preparing youth for permanency by resolving barriers and providing support to ensure permanency options for older foster children and youth are successful; intensive efforts to locate relatives willing to make lifelong commitments to older children; recruitment of adoptive parents who will make homes for entire sibling family members; legal guardianship; and, reunification with family members whose services were previously terminated.

California has been a leader in investing in permanent homes for children and youth in foster care. In addition to increasing funding for adoption, particularly for older youth, the Kinship Guardianship Assistance Program has enabled thousands of children to exit foster care to the permanent home of a committed extended family member.

Funding will be disbursed to counties and State Adoption District Offices as part of the regular budget process to be unveiled by the Schwarzenegger Administration in January. Funding will be allocated based on documented increases in legal permanency outcomes for older children and youth achieved by each county, as determined by the department in consultation with counties.

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